

An Introduction to the 2014-2015 PARCC Assessment Results

The PASS model refers to the term "parent" as any adult who plays an important role in a child's family life.

In the 2014-2015 school year, over 800,000 students in New Jersey took the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) for the first time.

New Jersey adopted updated learning standards in English language arts and mathematics. Changes in student learning standards required changes in the way that student learning is measured. This produces much different test results that provide new information about students and their performance. The results provide schools with information to improve classroom instruction and give parents valuable feedback about their child's progress in each grade level and as they approach graduation.

The PARCC exam marks a benchmark for student assessment.

In fall 2015, parents will receive score reports from the first administration of the new PARCC assessments in English language arts and mathematics. The assessments measure students' critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, writing skills, and mathematical reasoning which are all essential for success in higher education and the workplace. To be successful in college or a career, students must learn to demonstrate and explain their knowledge and understanding as opposed to simply reciting memorized facts or filling in a bubble for a correct answer. The PARCC score reports show how students performed on each portion of the PARCC assessments, as well as the student's overall score. Scores fall within one of five performance levels that indicate the student's demonstration and understanding of grade-level subject standards.

Performance-level descriptors

The performance levels listed on the score reports correspond to the knowledge, skills and practices that students at each grade level should be able to demonstrate in English language arts and mathematics. The score indicates how well students are academically prepared to successfully learn material in the next grade. For high school students, the score indicates how well they demonstrated that they are college and career ready.

Level 1: Did not yet meet expectations

Level 2: Partially met expectations

Level 3: Approached expectations

Level 4: Met expectations

Level 5: Exceeded expectations

- **Students whose scores fall within level 4 or 5 have demonstrated that they have a thorough understanding of grade-level content and are on the right track to being ready for college-level coursework.**
- **Students with level 3 scores are approaching expectations, but may need additional assistance mastering skills or standards at grade level.**
- **Students earning level 1 or 2 scores need greater supports and help to master skills/standards at grade level.**

Scores from the reports will allow parents to determine how their child is doing relative to other students in the state, the district and his or her school.

It cannot be stated enough that the 2014-2015 PARCC results for schools and individual students cannot be compared to students' scores on other tests, such as the NJASK and HSPA.

The PARCC assessment sets new performance goals for students using higher learning expectations in English language arts and mathematics.

In the 2015-2016 school year, students will continue to learn using the common core standards in English language arts and mathematics. Since the standards and the PARCC assessment are aligned in rigor and scope, PARCC will be administered for the second time in the school year 2015-2016.

New test with new results

Since this is the first year that students' learning will be measured with PARCC, the scores will likely appear lower than what educators and families typically expected based on previous tests. However, there are no negative consequences for students. The change in scoring is simply a reflection of how statewide assessments have evolved to meet higher standards that promote college and career readiness for all students.

The first year of PARCC testing is serving as a baseline for test scores and will establish the performance baselines for future years.

The 2015 scores have taken additional time to produce because New Jersey educators and their colleagues from other states needed to review students' work to determine the performance levels. Going forward, PARCC test results will be available sooner so that they can help teachers, parents and students inform instruction.

Student score results and other information is highly protected and not shared. Schools get the information educators need to make decisions about instruction. No student-specific information is shared with outside groups or the federal government — the same as it has always been.

The PARCC website contains an abundance of information, explanations and resources.

One of the most beneficial elements of the PARCC exam for students is that it provides a detailed report for parents. Specific information, mock report, and samples for understanding the score report can be found at:
<http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/score-results>.

Parents contributed to the development of the report, and the design includes graphics and detailed descriptions to show how each student performed on the English language arts/literacy and mathematics portions of the test. It also contains helpful links for parents to access more information. The report is intended to help parents and educators partner on how best to support students' needs.

Download the [Parent Guide to the Score Report](#)

PASS partners can use PARCC results, along with other assessments such as observations, classwork, homework, projects, quizzes, tests, performances, portfolios, skill demonstrations, and other classroom-based measurement methods to establish academic goals for each student.

*The New Jersey Department of Education's model for home/school partnerships – **The Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS)** provides documents and support tools intended to complement information about the state's academic standards and annual assessments for students. The PASS model provides resources, materials, and opportunities for parents and educators to build home/school partnerships in the best interest of students' academic success. For information on the NJDOE PASS model go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/toolkit/>. Please send questions to: informccss@doe.state.nj.us.*